

REMARKS

By this Supplemental Amendment, claim 11 presented in the November 6, 2006 Amendment is amended. Claims 1-10 and 12-25 as presented in the November 6, 2006 Amendment remain in the application.

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action dated July 5, 2006, claims 2, 5, 12-17 and 20 were withdrawn from consideration based on the Applicants' election of Species I depicted in Figures 1-14, 15A, 15B, 16A and 16B. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 7-11 and 21-25 are active in the application.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks presented in the November 6, 2006 Amendment in addition to the amendments and remarks presented herein.

This Supplemental Amendment is submitted in response to the Office communication dated January 19, 2006, which asserted that the November 6, 2006 Amendment was not fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 5, 2006. In particular, the Examiner asserted that the November 6, 2006 Amendment was not fully responsive to the objections raised in paragraphs 3(a), 3(c) and 5(e) of the July 5, 2006 Office Action.

The objections raised in paragraphs 3(a), 3(c) and 5(e) are addressed below.

In paragraph 3(a) of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that reference numeral were included in the original drawings but were not mentioned in the specification. Accordingly, the Examiner required that reference numerals not mentioned in the specification be removed from the drawings.

The Applicants submitted replacement formal drawings of Figures 1-18 with the November 6, 2006 Amendment. In the replacement formal drawings, the Applicants removed (1) reference numeral "F" from Figures 1 and 2, (2) reference numeral "L" from Figure 14, and (3) reference numeral "3X" from Figure 14. However, the lead lines to these removed reference numerals were inadvertently not removed. Accordingly, the Applicants submit herewith replacement formal drawings of Figures 1, 2 and 14 in which the lead lines pointing to the removed reference numerals as described above have also been removed.

In paragraph 3(a) of the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated the reference numeral 58 was included in original Figure 18, but was not mentioned in the specification. Instead of removing 58 from Figure 18, the Applicants added reference numeral 58 to the substitute specification (see line 25 on page 14 of the substitute specification). However, despite the addition of reference numeral 58 to the substitute specification, reference numeral 58 was inadvertently removed from Figure 18 in the replacement formal drawing of Figure 18 submitted with the November 6, 2006 Amendment.

A replacement formal drawing of Figure 18 is submitted herewith to add reference numeral 58 back to Figure 18.

The replacement formal drawings of Figures 1, 2, 14 and 18 submitted herewith replace the replacement formal drawings of Figures 1, 2, 14 and 18 submitted with the November 6, 2006 Amendment.

In paragraph 3(c) of the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that reference numeral "16" in Figure 10 should be replaced with reference numeral "6" to be consistent with the remainder of the disclosure.

However, in the replacement formal drawing of Figure 10 submitted with the November 6, 2006 Amendment, the Applicants replaced reference numeral "16" in Figure 10 with reference numeral "10". In the January 19, 2007 communication, the Examiner noted that the Applicants did not provide an explanation for this alternative correction. Furthermore, the Applicants note that in the annotated marked-up drawing of Figure 10 submitted with the November 6, 2006 Amendment, reference numeral "16" was identified as being deleted, while the replacement formal drawing of Figure 10 replaced reference numeral "16" with reference numeral "10". The Applicants regret the confusion that this inadvertent error created for the Examiner.

Reference numeral "16" in original Figure 10 was replaced with reference numeral "10" in the replacement formal drawing of Figure 10 for the following reasons.

As described in lines 5-7 on page 9 of the substitute specification (corresponding to lines 21-24 on page 8 of the original specification), "[a]s shown in FIG. 10, piezoelectric actuator element 10 comprises a pair of first piezoelectric element unit 10a

and second piezoelectric element unit 10b provided separately from each other on right and left sides.”

Reference numeral “16” in original Figure 10 was incorrect, because reference numeral “16” denoted the piezoelectric actuator element 10. In particular, the lead line of reference numeral “16” pointed to the third solid line from the outside of the flexure 7 illustrated in Figure 10.

On the other hand, the lead line of reference numeral “6”, which denotes a pattern formed wiring, points to the second solid line from the outside of the flexure 7 illustrated in Figure 10. As described in line 26 on page 9 to line 2 on page 10 of the substitute specification (corresponding to lines 15-18 on page 9 of the original specification), “[t]he piezoelectric actuator elements 10 shown in FIG. 8 are fixedly bonded, as indicated by the dashed line, on flexible substrate 8c provided with coupling portion 40 and surrounded by pattern formed wiring 6 as shown in FIG. 10.”

Accordingly, the lead line corresponding to reference numeral “6” in Figure 10 points to the pattern formed wiring (the second solid line from the outside of the flexure 7), whereas the lead line corresponding to reference numeral “10” in replacement Figure 10 submitted with the November 6, 2006 Amendment points to the piezoelectric actuator element 10.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the foregoing remarks, the replacement of reference numeral “16” with reference numeral “10” in the replacement formal drawing of Figure 10 was correct in view of the description of the specification.

In paragraph 5(e) of the Office Action, the Examiner requested that each instance of “head:” in line 3 of each of claims 11, 18-19 and 21-25 be replaced with --head;--. The requested revisions to claims 18-19 and 21-25 were present in the November 6, 2006 Amendment. However, the requested revision to claim 11 was inadvertently not presented in the November 6, 2006 Amendment.

Accordingly, claim 11 has been amended herein to make the revision requested in paragraph 5(e) of the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this Supplemental Amendment and the replacement formal drawings of

Figure 1, 2, 14 and 18 submitted herewith fully respond to each objection raised in the Office Action.


The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as claims 3-11 and 18-25 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art as applied by the Examiner for the reasons presented in the November 6, 2006 Amendment.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks presented herein as well as the amendments and remarks presented in the November 6, 2006 Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Supplemental Amendment and the November 6, 2006 Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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